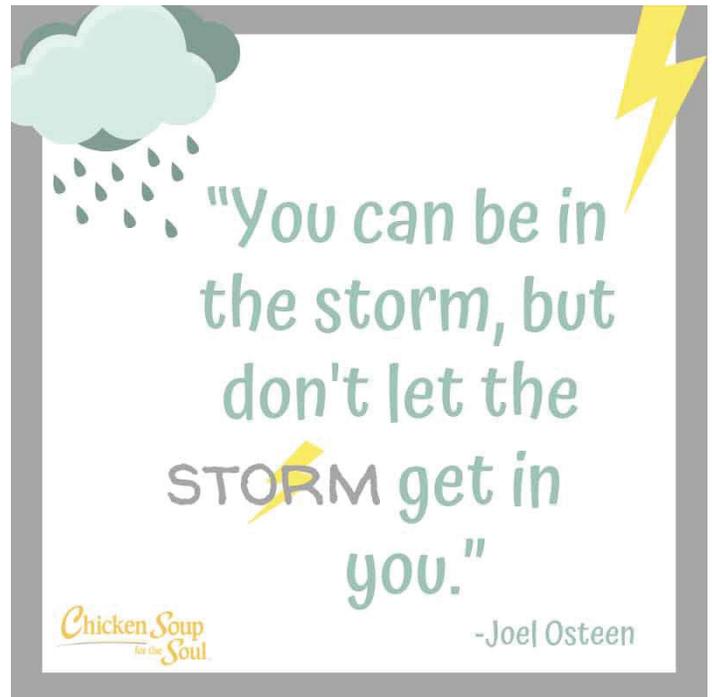


Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, March 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 261 ~ 1 of 31

- 1- Robotics Greenhouse Raffle Ad
- 2- Dairy Queen 25th Anniversary Celebration
- 2- Rounds Report: Ellsworth to be First Base to Receive B-21 Bombers
- 3- Keith joins Harr Motors
- 3- Truss Pros is Hiring
- 4- Sky Warn Storm Spotter Classes
- 5- February Students of the Month
- 6- Hours spent below zero this season
- 7- Today in Weather History
- 8- Weather Pages
- 10- Daily Devotional
- 11- 2019 Groton Events
- 12- News from the Associated Press



Click on Ad to sign up!



Greenhouse Raffle

Prizes are:
Greenhouse (12'x7.5', 2 shelves, 2 outlets, light)
Hunting Blind (Hexagon with 6 shooting windows)
Free delivery within 20 miles
2 Dairy Queen \$50 Gift Cards

**Need not be present to win. \$10 Donation
Drawing to be held April 15th**

**Contact any Robotics member for a ticket or
call Jim Lane at 605/397-7013.**

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, March 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 261 ~ 2 of 31

Rounds Report: Ellsworth to be First Base to Receive B-21 Bombers

Earlier Wednesday, U.S. Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson announced that Ellsworth Air Force base will be home to the B-21 Formal Training Unit and be the first base to receive an operational squadron of B-21 Raider bombers. This is great news for South Dakota and our national defense. The announcement reaffirms the vital role Ellsworth will play in our defense strategy for years to come.

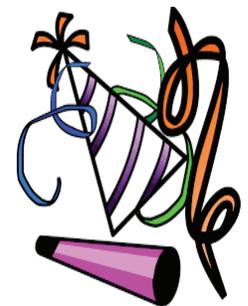
The B-21s are currently being developed as part of the Air Force's Long Range Strike Bomber program and will be capable of delivering conventional or thermonuclear weapons. This is the next generation stealth bomber. The first planes are projected in the mid-2020s, with at least 100 bombers across the force within the coming decades.

The decision will result in an increase of personnel at Ellsworth. Construction on infrastructure to support the B-21s is expected to start in Fiscal Year 2021.

Ellsworth's success has much to do with the integral partnership between the Air Force, the Ellsworth Development Authority as well as leaders at the local, state and federal levels. As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I will continue working closely with the Air Force and the Ellsworth community to help assure a seamless process.

Groton Dairy Queen's 25th Anniversary!

Come Celebrate With Us - March 25-29!



**Today:
Indian Tacos:
\$5.25**

Friday: Small Cones for 25¢



Thank You For 25 Years of Serving You, our great customers!



11 East US 12, Groton

605-397-8627

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, March 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 261 ~ 3 of 31

NOW HIRING!

Truss Pros

10954 424th Avenue | Britton, SD 57430

Looking for assemblers - both shifts &
Class A CDL Drivers

New Starting Competitive Wages
Overtime Available

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Comprehensive Health, Dental & Vision insurance
- Life Insurance
- STD
- LTD
- 401k
- Holiday Pay
- Vacation Pay
- Paid Sick Leave
- Referral Bonuses

To apply visit www.uslbm.com/careers or call Diane at 605-448-2929.



hm HARR
Motors

4255 6th Ave

Hi, my name is Bary Keith, a Groton resident. I have just recently joined the Harr Motors sales team. I'm excited to start helping people get into the right vehicle for them. Right now, any vehicle purchased from me, until the end of April, will receive an Autostart at no charge. Give me a call (605-216-6952) or (605-725-8624) or stop out and see me at Harr Motors today!!!



Sky Warn Storm Spotter Classes

The National Weather Service and Brown County Emergency Management will be hosting storm spotter training class. This class will cover topics discussing severe thunderstorms that produce damaging winds, large hail, tornadoes and flash floods. Other types of severe weather and lightning safety will also be discussed

This class is free and open to the public on the following date:

April 18th, 2018

6:00pm-8:00pm

Brown County Courthouse Community Room
25 Market Street Aberdeen

No registration needed.

More information call:

Brown County Emergency Management Office
605-626-7122



Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, March 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 261 ~ 5 of 31

February Students of the Month

The student council is sponsoring Student of the Month. Each month the faculty select students who show outstanding academic achievement. These students receive certificates and have an end of the year recognition with the principal.

The February Students of the Month are: 6th – Jeslyn Kosel, 7th – Anna Fjeldheim, 8th – Jackson Dinger, 9th – Pierce Kettering, 10th – Alexa Herr, 11th – Nicole Marzahn 12th – Cassandra Townsend



Jeslyn Kosel, sixth grade, is the daughter of Paul and Tina Kosel, Groton. Her sister is Julianna and they have a dog named Jake.

Jeslyn is involved in basketball, volleyball, Carnival of Silver Skates and Destination Imagination. She has been named to the honor roll and student of the month. She likes to help others and her favorite subject is Social Studies. Her future is to help other people out who need it. Brent Rivera is her role model.



Anna Fjeldheim, seventh grade, is the daughter of Ryan and Sue Fjeldheim, Groton. Her siblings are Abby, Drew and Max the dog.

Anna is involved in volleyball, basketball, softball, ice skating and baby-sitting. She has been named to the honor roll and student of the month. Her interests are sports, baby-sitting, baking and going to the lake. English is her favorite subject and she plans to be a photographer or upper elementary teacher. Her role model is her mom.



Jackson Dinger, eighth grade, is the son of Weston Dinger and Elizabeth Bahr with step-parents Emily Fischer and Brian Bahr. Siblings are Arianna, Gretchen, Nolan, Roman, Raven and Hunter.

Jackson is involved in Destination Imagination, Robotics and reading. His accomplishments include his team getting first place at multiple MathCounts events and his Robotics team earned the Judges Award. His interests are chemistry and civics and his favorite subject is English. He plans to be a chemical engineer. His role model is his dad, Weston.



Pierce Kettering, freshman, is the son of Kara Pharis and Scott Kettering. His activities include football, basketball, baseball and FFA. He has been named to the honor roll and his interests are hunting, football, basketball, baseball and snowmobiling. Study hall is his favorite time at school and his future plans are unknown at this time. His parents are his role model.



Alexa Herr, sophomore, is the daughter of LaRon and Jolene Herr, Bristol. Siblings are Sheldon and Ericka.

Her activities include cheer, FCCLA, volleyball and 4-H. She has won awards for piano and 4-H and being on the honor roll. Her interests are reading, nursing, baking, cooking and watching Netflix. History is her favorite subject and she plans to attend SDSU for nursing. Her mom, Jolene, is her role model.



Nicole Marzahn, junior, is the daughter of Wade and Renee Marzahn, Groton. Her siblings are Breanna, Landon and Andrew.

Her activities include volleyball, track, FCCLA, show choir tech crew, band, Friendly Fellows & Daisies 4-H Club, Matchbox Volleyball and Carnival of Silver Skates. She lettered in volleyball, has been on the National Honor Society, skated a solo for the Carnival of Silver Skates and received top record book award for 4-H. Her interests are volleyball, track, ice skating, watching Netflix, knitting and hanging out with friends. Biology II is her favorite subject and she is undecided for a college but plans to major in nursing. Chelsea Hanson is her role model.



Cassandra Townsend, senior, is the daughter of Dean and Kellie Townsend, Andover. Her brother is Travis Townsend.

Cassandra is involved in FFA, FCCLA, track, 4-H, National Reining Horse Association and the American Quarter Horse Association. Her accomplishments include being on the honor roll, named student of the month and 2019 Senior Snow Queen. She likes working with animals and drawing. Biology is her favorite subject and she plans to attend SDSU to major in human biology and pre-med with plans to become a doctor. Her dad, Dean, is her role model.

Hours Spent Below Zero *THIS* Season

Hours Spent Below Zero

Nov 1st - Feb 28th

Buffalo 396
Mobridge 560
Aberdeen 783
Watertown 779
Rapid City 285
Sioux Falls 472

Have you seen this graphic floating around from 2013 - 2014? An update for the current season is to the right for

US National Weather Service
Aberdeen South Dakota

"note on March 9th, 2019" This post has received a spike in activity recently. We would just like to remind everyone that the post is from 2014 "end note"

Has this winter felt "long" to you? We've got a map for that...

We've talked about this before, but this winter has been interesting. It will likely be one of the top 10 coldest for much of northeast South Dakota but we haven't had a surplus of "extreme cold" where lows fall below -20 or -30. We wanted to find a unique way to put in perspective how cold the winter was.

... quickly explain the graphic. So what the map is showing is the number of hours that locations have spent below zero (or below 32, below ZERO. We used all of the observation data from 24 stations in South Dakota and the immediate surrounding areas. Since the numbers were only from these stations, we used interpolation techniques to create the full map. It should be noted that this is an approximation. For example, we did not look between hours, so if the temperature dropped below zero between two hourly observations, that won't be included in this analysis. This was just a quick estimate based off of hourly observations.

Aberdeen: 498 hours
4 in Nov, 33 in Dec, 177 in Jan, 284 in Feb. 565 hours including March

Watertown: 473 hours
2 in Nov, 33 in Dec, 206 in Jan, 232 in Feb. 528 hours including March

Mobridge: 251 hours
0 in Nov, 16 in Dec, 53 in Jan, 182 in Feb. 275 hours including March

Pierre: 218 hours
0 in Nov, 16 in Dec, 62 in Jan, 140 in Feb. 257 hours including March

National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD Updated: 3/27/2019 3:57 PM Central

Published on: 03/27/2019 at 5:00PM

The winter season began relatively mild, but January, February and the beginning of March were brutally cold. Much of the area spent a considerable amount of time below zero (approximate number of hours shown in the graphic).

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, March 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 261 ~ 7 of 31

Today in Weather History

March 28, 1977: A slow-moving storm system affected South Dakota from March 28th through March 30th, 1977. The storm produced heavy snow in the west and thunderstorms in the east. Northerly winds gusting to 50 miles an hour in the West created blizzard conditions as the snow totals mounted. Some areas in western Butte, Pennington, northern Shannon, and Lawrence counties received over 20 inches of snow. With drifts exceeding 6 to 8 feet many people in western South Dakota thought it was the worst blizzard in a quarter century. A few locations in the northern Black Hills received over 4 feet of snow. Because of blocked roads, westbound traffic was halted on I-90, and many schools and businesses were forced to close for several days. Across the eastern portion of the state rains of over 1" fell in many areas. Milbank even reported walnut size hail.

1920: The worst tornado disaster of record occurred in Chicago, IL as a tornado killed 28 persons and caused three million dollars damage. This tornado was part of an outbreak which saw 38 tornadoes hit the Midwest and the Deep South states. Over 380 people died, and at least, 1,215 were injured during the Palm Sunday outbreak.

1935: On this date through March 31st, a great dust storm descended on Amarillo, Texas reducing visibility to zero for a six-hour period.

1963: A decision was handed down in the case of Whitney Bartie vs. the United States of America. Bartie sued the U.S. Weather Bureau for negligence in failing to provide a warning about Hurricane Audrey in 1957. Bartie's wife and five children were killed after the 12-foot storm surge struck Cameron Parish, LA on the morning of June 27, 1957. It was ruled that the evidence presented did not establish negligence on the part of the Weather Bureau.

1917 - Thane Creek, AK, reported a snow cover of 190 inches. (The Weather Channel)

1920 - The worst tornado disaster of record occurred in Chicago IL as a tornado killed 28 persons and caused three million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1984 - A violent outbreak of tornadoes hit the Carolinas. Thunderstorms spawned 22 tornadoes during the late afternoon and evening hours which killed 57 persons and injured 1248 others. Nearly half the deaths occurred in mobile homes. A tornado from near Tatum SC to southern Cumberland County NC was 2.5 miles in width at times. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A blizzard raged from southern Nebraska to central Iowa. Snowfall totals ranged up to 17 inches at Blue Hill NE. Winds gusted to 68 mph at Carroll IA. High winds produced snow drifts twenty feet high in western Iowa, and produced wind chill readings as cold as 30 degrees below zero in Nebraska. The snowfall total of 9.4 inches at Omaha NE was a record for the date. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Severe thunderstorms in central Oklahoma produced hail up to four inches in diameter causing 35 million dollars in southern Oklahoma County. Baseball size hail and seven inches of rain caused another eighteen million dollars damage in Stephens County. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

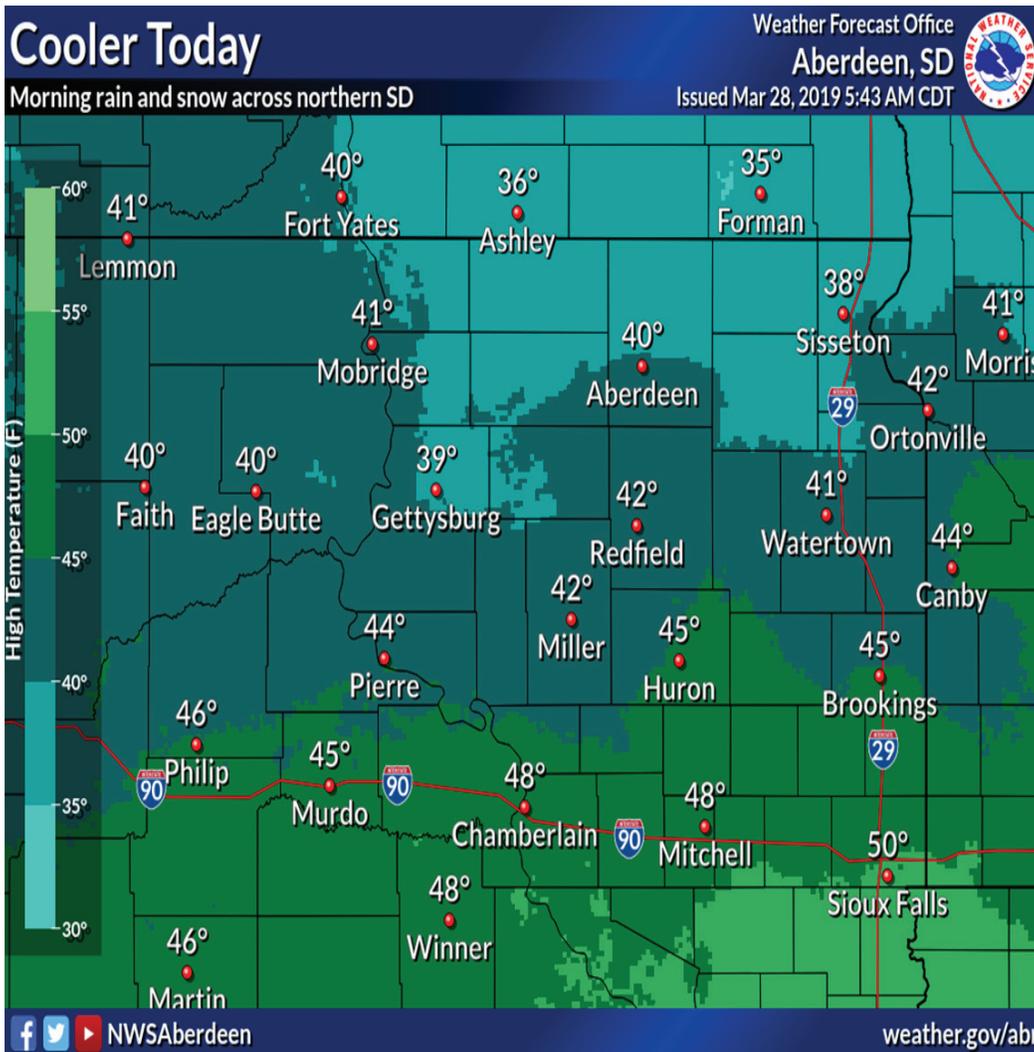
1989 - Unseasonably warm weather prevailed from the Southern and Central Plains to the Atlantic coast. Eighteen cities reported new record high temperatures for the date. The afternoon high of 81 degrees at Beckley WV was a record for March, and the high of 90 degrees in downtown Baltimore MD tied their March record. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - A storm system brought heavy snow to the west central and southern mountains of Wyoming, and high winds to the Wasatch Mountains of northern Utah. Snowfall totals in Wyoming ranged up to ten inches at the Snowy Ski Range Area, and the storm pushed the snowfall total for the month at Cheyenne above 37 inches, surpassing their previous record for March of 35 inches.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, March 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 261 ~ 8 of 31

Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
				
Wintry Mix Likely then Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 39 °F	Low: 20 °F	High: 45 °F	Low: 19 °F	High: 36 °F



Cooler air has moved into the region and we'll see high temperatures today a bit lower than what we saw on Wednesday. Highs will range from the upper 30s to mid 40s across the region, although this will continue to melt snow - just at a slower pace. Also, we are seeing a band of rain and snow across northern South Dakota early this morning as a weak piece of energy crosses through the area. Only light amounts of precipitation are expected, with conditions drying out by late morning.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, March 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 261 ~ 9 of 31

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 48 °F at 4:35 PM

Low Outside Temp: 36 °F at 9:53 PM

High Gust: 15 mph at 7:42 PM

Precip:

Today's Info

Record High: 82° in 1946

Record Low: -10° in 1913

Average High: 46°F

Average Low: 25°F

Average Precip in Mar.: 0.97

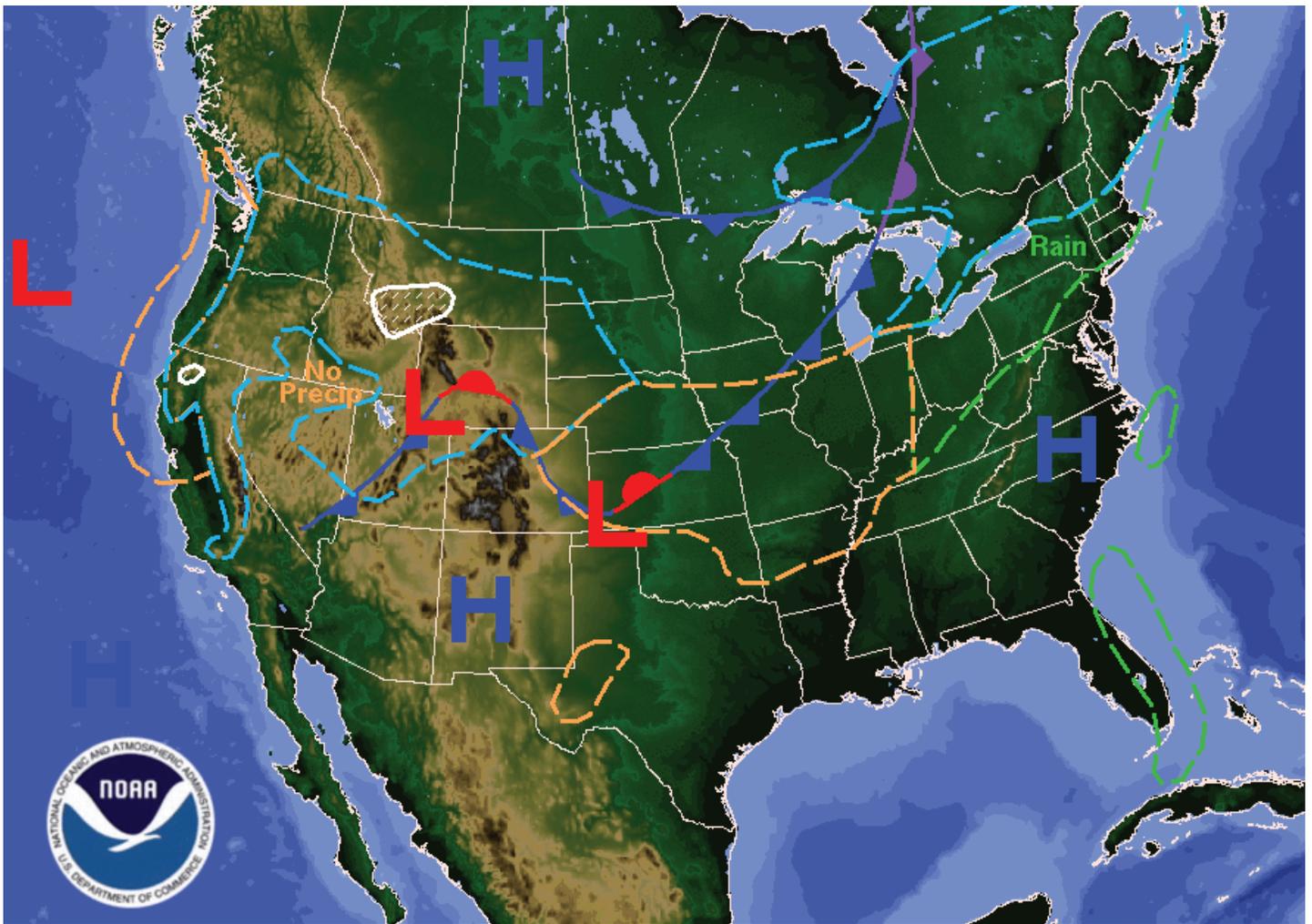
Precip to date in Mar.: 0.87

Average Precip to date: 1.99

Precip Year to Date: 3.06

Sunset Tonight: 7:56 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:20 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Thu, Mar 28, 2019, issued 4:56 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, March 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 261 ~ 10 of 31



DOES WISDOM LEAD TO LOVE?

I love those who love me, says Wisdom. Those who seek me find me, she continues. Wisdom, then, is available to everyone who seeks her. If those who find her love her, she will love them in return. Furthermore, the matter is set in absolute and unquestionable terms.

How can this be true? It refers us back to verse thirteen: To fear the Lord is to hate evil. If we love wisdom, we will automatically hate evil. Love is always a choice and those whom we choose to love become the center of our lives. As a result of this choice, we honor them by our loyalty, our faithfulness, and obedience. Love is much more than emotions or sentiments. Love is other-centered, sacrificial, mutual and reciprocal.

If we truly love wisdom, we will apply its truth to our lives and benefit from its rewards. That's why God gave us Proverbs! He wants His very best for us!

An interesting, yet seldom used phrase is self-destructive or self-defeating behaviors. Like it or not, many of us engage in behaviors that do not work in our favor or best interests. Often we are unaware that what we are doing will destroy and defeat us: not studying His Word and praying, not being accountable to or serving God. Even Solomon, with all of his wisdom and wealth, came to the end of his life and lacked self-control and had no fear of God.

And if God offers us anything, it is the path to success in life through His work and His Word. We have His wisdom to endow us, His light to guide us, His power to strengthen us, His presence to comfort us and His grace to save us.

Prayer: Father, You have offered us so much more than we deserve. Awaken our minds and hearts and help us to take advantage of each of Your gifts. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 8:16 I love all who love me. Those who search will surely find me.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, March 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 261 ~ 11 of 31

2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 03/17/2019 Legion Post #39 Spring Fundraiser (Sunday closest to St. Patrick's Day, every other year)
- 04/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/27/2019 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 05/04/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/27/2019 Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program (Memorial Day)
- 06/13/2019 Transit Fundraiser (Thursday Mid-June)
- 06/14/2019 SDSU Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 06/15/2019 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 06/21/2019 Best Ball Golf Tourney
- 06/22-23/2019 Groton Junior Legion Tournament
- 06/29/2019 Groton U10/U12 Round Robin Tournament
- 07/04/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 07/14/2019 Summer Fest/Car Show (Sunday Mid-July)
- 07/18/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Pro Am Tournament
- 07/21/2019 Granary Ice Cream Social & Family Music Fest
- 08/02/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Wine on Nine
- 08/09-11/2019 State Junior Legion Tournament in Groton
- 08/22/2019 First Day of School
- 09/07/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/08/2019 Sunflower Classic at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 09/08/2019 Granary Living History Fall Festival
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2019 Trunk or Treat/Halloween on Main (Halloween)
- 11/09/2019 Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/07/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Holiday Party
- 12/07/2019 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
- Bingo: every Wednesday, Labor Day-Memorial Day, 6:30pm at the Legion Post #39

2020 Groton SD Community Events

- 4/4/2020 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 4/25/2020 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 5/2/2020 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)

News from the Associated Press

Man sleeping in truck guilty of having short-barrel rifle

MIAMI (AP) — A South Dakota man found sleeping in his truck in Florida has been convicted of possessing an unregistered short-barrel rifle.

Court records show that 32-year-old David James Goldammer pleaded guilty Wednesday in Miami federal court to possessing an unregistered firearm. He faces up to 10 years in prison at a June 4 sentencing.

Miami Beach police say Goldammer's truck was running in October when officers found him asleep behind the wheel with open beer bottles and handguns in plain view. Goldammer was arrested after refusing a field sobriety test.

While searching the truck, officers reported finding a loaded rifle with a barrel less than 16 inches long. Such a weapon requires a special tax stamp, which Goldammer didn't have. Investigators also found a separate upper receiver that was longer than 16 inches, five handguns, empty and loaded magazines and thousands of rounds of ammunition.

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Wednesday:

Dakota Cash

09-14-15-27-35

(nine, fourteen, fifteen, twenty-seven, thirty-five)

Estimated jackpot: \$204,000

Lotto America

05-20-28-36-48, Star Ball: 5, ASB: 5

(five, twenty, twenty-eight, thirty-six, forty-eight; Star Ball: five; ASB: five)

Estimated jackpot: \$17.22 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$75 million

Powerball

16-20-37-44-62, Powerball: 12, Power Play: 3

(sixteen, twenty, thirty-seven, forty-four, sixty-two; Powerball: twelve; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$750 million

Ellsworth Air Force Base getting B-21 bombers

ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE, S.D. (AP) — The U.S. military on Wednesday chose Ellsworth Air Force Base as the first training site for new B-21 bombers that are capable of launching thermonuclear weapons.

U.S. Sens. John Thune and Mike Rounds hailed the announcement as an economic boon for the area, saying a flurry of construction will be necessary to accommodate the planes and the hundreds of new airmen and their families who will be coming to the base. The senators also say Ellsworth will need to construct hangars, training areas, and facilities to store the thermonuclear weapons.

"Obviously that has a ripple effect throughout the entire economy," Thune said.

The Air Force says the planes are expected to arrive by the middle of next year. Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri and Dyess Air Force Base in Texas will also get B-21 bombers later as they become available.

The Air Force said in a press release that Ellsworth was the first choice "because it provides sufficient space and existing facilities necessary to accommodate simultaneous missions at the lowest costs."

The announcement also marks a reversal of fate for Ellsworth Air Force Base. The Rapid City Journal reports that in 2005 it was briefly added to a Pentagon list of military bases that should be closed or re-

located. But the area took steps to make sure the base remained open.

"This is a major, major event for the community," Rounds said.

Rounds said at least 100 of the B-21 planes are being built. He said the number of planes Ellsworth will get and when they will arrive is classified.

Information from: Rapid City Journal, <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com>

UNLV tabs South Dakota State's Otzelberger as next coach

By JOHN MARSHALL AP Basketball Writer

UNLV has hired South Dakota State's T.J. Otzelberger as its next basketball coach.

Otzelberger spent the past three seasons at South Dakota State, going 70-33 while leading the Jackrabbits to the NCAA Tournament twice. South Dakota State won the Summit League regular-season title this season, but ended up in the NIT after losing in the conference tournament.

"When I set out to find the next coach of our Runnin' Rebels, I sought a hard-working, laser-focused head coach who personifies our core values; who knows what success looks like; who is passionately committed to winning; and who is at ease with being the face of our storied basketball program. T.J. exemplifies these attributes," UNLV athletic director Desiree Reed-Francois said in a statement Wednesday.

Otzelberger replaces Marvin Menzies, who was fired on March 15 after three seasons.

Otzelberger previously had two stints as an assistant coach at Iowa State, the second time for the 2015-16 season under Steve Prohm. Otzelberger also spent two seasons as an assistant to Lorenzo Romar at Washington.

He takes over a UNLV program that hasn't been to the NCAA Tournament since 2013.

"I have been fortunate to coach at some amazing universities and it was going to take a very special opportunity to leave Brookings," Otzelberger said in a statement. "UNLV basketball is one of the most storied programs in the nation and situated in one of the world's greatest cities. I'm honored to have the opportunity to add to the Runnin' Rebels' rich history and my family and I could not be more proud to be the newest members of this world-class university and Las Vegas community."



South Dakota State head coach T.J. Otzelberger yells to his team during a first round game against Texas in the NCAA college basketball National Invitation Tournament in Austin, Texas, Tuesday, March 19, 2019. Texas won, 79-73.

(Nick Wagner/Austin American-Statesman via AP)

More AP college basketball: <https://apnews.com/MarchMadness> and http://www.twitter.com/AP_Top25

Critics seek to block easing of oil and gas rules in West

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Conservation groups are asking a federal judge to block the Trump administration from easing restrictions on energy companies that were meant to protect a struggling Western bird species.

Attorneys for Western Watersheds Project, Prairie Hills Audubon Society and two other groups made the request Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Boise, Idaho.

At issue are federal land use plans for greater sage grouse first enacted in 2015 under President Barack Obama.

The Interior Department revised those plans this month as part of President Donald Trump's efforts to promote oil and gas drilling and other activities.

The ground-dwelling sage grouse's territory includes portions of 11 Western states.

The same groups behind Wednesday's court filing had sued in 2016 over the Obama-era plans, claiming they did not do enough.



FILE - In this April 20, 2013, file photo, male Greater Sage Grouse perform their mating ritual on a lake near Walden, Colo. The Trump administration is finalizing plans to ease restrictions on oil and natural gas drilling and other industry activities that are meant to protect an imperiled bird species that ranges across the American West. U.S. Bureau of Land Management Acting Director Brian Steed told The Associated Press the changes still protect greater sage grouse while addressing concerns that policies under former President Barack Obama were too restrictive. A formal announcement is expected Friday, March 15, 2019.

(AP Photo/David Zalubowski, File)

School officials say wrestlers' dance was insensitive

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Administrators at a Rapid City high school say they don't anticipate the wrestling team will face heavy discipline for imitating a traditional dance to American Indian music that was recently posted to social media by a student.

Officials at Central High School say the wrestlers' dancing is culturally insensitive and doesn't fit with school values. Indian education manager Sarah Pierce says the dance could be perceived as a mockery by American Indians.

Assistant District Superintendent Matthew Seebaum says they will use the incident as a teaching tool to help the wrestlers' understand their actions were insensitive.

KOTA-TV says the video was posted to Facebook by junior Katie Johnson, who is American Indian. Johnson says what the wrestlers did "wasn't right in any way" and she didn't want their actions to "just get blown over."

Pet store owner accused of animal abuse reaches deal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A plea agreement calls for the owner of a Rapid City pet store which was raided for suspected animal abuse to pay \$40,000 to the Humane Society of the Black Hills and surrender all her animals.

The agreement reached Tuesday in state court allows Marinda Parks, owner of Pitter Patter, to keep two personal pets. The Rapid City Journal reports Assistant City Attorney Kinsley Groote says she's confident the city would have won at trial, but felt it was better for the animals to get to safe homes as soon as possible. The agreement has Parks pleading guilty to three of the 55 charges with both prosecutors and the defense asking for a suspended sentence of 30 days in jail.

Animal control officers seized pets along with a number of dead animals from the store last August.

Information from: Rapid City Journal, <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com>

Sargent County highway worker struck and killed

RUTLAND, N.D. (AP) — The North Dakota Highway Patrol says a member of a county highway crew has been struck and killed near Rutland.

The patrol says a Britton, South Dakota woman was headed north in a minivan on Sargent County Road 10 Tuesday when she encountered a pickup truck parked in the northbound lane. A Sargent County Road Department crew was placing warning signs on the shoulder of the road and no one was in their pickup.

Authorities say the woman turned into the ditch to avoid striking the road department's truck and struck a crew member.

The 60-year-old man was taken to the Lisbon Medical Center and died from his injuries. The woman was not seriously hurt.

Man pulled from swollen Big Sioux River

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — First responders have rescued a man from a swollen river in Sioux Falls.

Police say the man was spotted in the Big Sioux River about 4:30 p.m. Tuesday upstream from Falls Park. Capt. Jeff Garden says life-saving efforts were made, but he does not know the man's condition. Garden also didn't know how long the man was in the water.

The bike trail system and many parks along the Big Sioux River are closed because of high water levels. Police say those who ignore the barricades could be fined more than \$200.

High-rise office building catches fire in Bangladesh capital

By JULHAS ALAM Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — A fire broke out Thursday in a high-rise office building in Bangladesh's capital with many people trapped inside, but was largely brought under control in several hours, officials said.

The fire was the latest in a city where flouted building regulations and safety norms have made deadly blazes common.

There was no immediate confirmation of casualties. A Facebook Live video taken by Roy Pinaki showed five people scaling down from windows while burnt building materials fell around them. One person slipped from what appeared to be a rope that people were using to escape, bounced off utility wires and fell to the ground.

Fire officials said that after battling the blaze for several hours, most of the people trapped inside the FR Tower, located on a busy avenue in Dhaka's Banani commercial district, had been rescued.

"The situation is under control," said Debashish Bardhan, a Fire Service and Civil Defense deputy director.

The fire had lost some of its intensity but was not yet fully extinguished late Thursday afternoon, Bardhan said.

Firefighters were shattering the building's glass walls to free toxic gas.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, March 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 261 ~ 16 of 31

Military helicopters joined the rescue operation, and one person dangled from a helicopter hovering over the roof as thick plumes of smoke cascaded upward.

More than a dozen people who fled to the roof were rescued by firefighters in hydraulic cranes, Bardhan said.

Witness Sajib Hasan said some people shouted for help from windows on the upper floors of the building. Heavy smoke deterred efforts by responders to get close to them, but Hasan said he watched at least a dozen people get rescued.

Banani, the area where the fire broke out, is a busy commercial district with multistory buildings housing offices, universities and restaurants.

Tushar-or-Rashid, an employee of the Vivid Holidays tour company on the building's first floor, said the fire began above them.

"All of our staff have come out safely but we don't know what happened to the people who work in the upper floors," he said. Rashid said the building has 21 floors.

Fires are common in Bangladesh. Last month, a fire in the oldest part of Dhaka, a 400-year-old area cramped with apartments, shops and warehouses, left at least 67 people dead.

In 2012, a fire raced through a garment factory on the outskirts of Dhaka, killing at least 112 people trapped behind its locked gates. Less than six months later, another building containing garment factories collapsed, killing more than 1,100 people.

Another fire in a house illegally storing chemicals in Old Dhaka killed at least 123 people in 2010.



A Bangladeshi, stuck in a multi-storied office building on fire, speaks on his mobile phone in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Thursday, March 28, 2019. Fire Department control room official Ershad Hossain said by phone the FR Tower in Dhaka's Banani commercial district caught fire Thursday afternoon and at least 19 fire fighting units joined the operation to douse the blaze and rescue the people trapped inside. (AP Photo/Mahmud Hossain Opu)

Adviser and allies warning Trump against issuing pardons

By JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The end of the special counsel's investigation sparked fresh speculation that President Donald Trump might pardon some of those charged in the probe. It's also spawned a don't-go-there chorus from some of Trump's closest advisers and GOP allies.

They're warning that pardons could ignite a political firestorm that overshadows what Trump sees as a moment of triumph.

Trump mused about granting pardons at times during special counsel Robert Mueller's nearly two-year investigation. But according to his lawyers, the president has not been in active talks about using his pardon powers to help advisers who have pleaded guilty or been convicted, including former national security adviser Michael Flynn and ex-campaign chairman Paul Manafort.

"The president is not going to consider pardons. He's not gonna give any pardons," said Rudy Giuliani, the president's outside attorney. "If it ever happens, it has to happen in the future, but nobody has any promise of it, nobody should assume it. Of course, he has the power to do it, but I have no reason to

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, March 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 261 ~ 17 of 31

believe he's going to use it."

Mueller's probe ended last week. According to a four-page summary issued by Attorney General William Barr, a Trump appointee, Mueller found no evidence Trump's campaign "conspired or coordinated" with the Russian government to influence the 2016 presidential election. But Mueller reached no conclusion on whether Trump obstructed justice. Barr and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein then concluded there wasn't sufficient evidence to establish that the president had obstructed justice.

Trump has falsely claimed that Mueller "completely exonerated" him, a rallying cry echoed by many on the right and taken up by some conservatives who are now calling for Trump to issue pardons.

"President Trump should pardon General Mike Flynn. General Mike Flynn was entrapped by federal agents that were seeking revenge against Trump," tweeted Charlie Kirk, founder of the conservative group Turning Point USA, who said Flynn faces \$5 million in legal fees.

George Papadopoulos, a Trump campaign foreign policy adviser, this week became the first to formally request a presidential pardon. He served a 14-day prison sentence last year after pleading guilty to making false statements to federal prosecutors about his communications with a professor who claimed that the Russians had "dirt" on Hillary Clinton.

"My lawyers have formally asked for a pardon," Papadopoulos told Fox News. "If it's granted, I would be honored to accept it."

Tom Fitton, the president of the conservative group Judicial Watch, tweeted this week that a Flynn pardon can't come "soon enough." And Jack Posbiec, an online conservative advocate, pushed for clemency for longtime Trump adviser Roger Stone, who recently pleaded not guilty to felony charges in Mueller's investigation.

But there is little appetite among Trump allies for the political mess that pardons could create. White House aides and Republican lawmakers alike have advised the president to steer clear of the idea, particularly as House Democrats continue their investigations and the 2020 campaign has begun.

Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, who spent last weekend with Trump, told reporters on Monday that "if President Trump pardoned anybody in his orbit, it would not play well."

Other congressional allies and informal Trump advisers, including former House Speaker Newt Gingrich and ex-New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, have counseled against pardoning anyone ensnared in Mueller's investigation.

Trump has not brought up pardons since the Mueller probe ended, but has privately complained about what he believes is the unfair treatment a number of his former aides have received, according to a White House official not authorized to publicly discuss private conversations. The president has expressed sympathy for Manafort, believing his sentence of seven-plus years for a variety of financial crimes was unjust, according to the official.



In this March 20, 2019, photo, President Donald Trump speaks to reporters before leaving the White House in Washington. The end of the special counsel's investigation sparked fresh speculation that Trump might pardon some of those charged in the probe. It's also spawned a don't-go-there chorus from a number of Trump's closest advisers and GOP allies. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

When asked by reporters at the White House earlier this month if he could consider pardoning Manafort, Trump demurred, saying, "I have not even given it a thought as of this moment."

"It is not something that's right now on my mind," Trump said. In an interview Wednesday on Fox News Channel, Trump said, "I don't want to talk about pardons now" even as he bashed the investigation.

Trump claimed earlier in the month that his former attorney Michael Cohen, sentenced to three years in prison for violating campaign finance laws, financial crimes and lying to Congress, directly asked him for a pardon. Cohen's representatives have since disputed that account while acknowledging that he would have been open to the offer last April, when his office and hotel room were first raided by the FBI.

Trump has previously not been shy about exercising his pardon powers, using them in his first two years in office far more than his recent predecessors.

In particular, he rewarded ideological allies, particularly those who he believed were victims of politically motivated prosecutors. Among those who received pardons were conservative commentator Dinesh D'Souza, who was convicted of a campaign finance violation, and former Sheriff Joe Arpaio of Arizona, who was convicted of criminal contempt. Each move was widely interpreted as a signal to other potential cooperating witnesses in the Mueller probe that they could also be rewarded with a pardon if they stayed loyal to the president.

Follow Lemire on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire>

Smollett saga shook public trust, heightened racial tensions

By **ERRIN HAINES WHACK AP National Writer**

In the two months since Jussie Smollett reported a late-night attack by assailants shouting racial and anti-gay slurs, the "Empire" actor and activist went from victim to defendant. Police and many in the black community rallied to his defense before condemning his account as a hoax.

On Tuesday, Smollett was a defendant no more after prosecutors dropped the criminal case that had loomed over him for weeks. He expressed gratitude to fans and maintained his version of events.

"I am a man of faith, and I am a man that has knowledge of my history. And I would not bring my family, our lives or the movement through a fire like this. I just wouldn't," he told reporters after an emergency court hearing that cleared his record.

The decision to drop charges has sparked a backlash that prompted the actor's attorney to issue a blistering statement Wednesday accusing Chicago officials and police of trying to "smear" Smollett even after the case is closed.

"We are disappointed the local authorities have continued their campaign against Jussie Smollett after the charges against him have been dropped," said attorney Patricia Brown Holmes, "We should all allow Mr. Smollett to move on with his life as a free citizen."

Smollett's bizarre saga has shaken the public trust, exposed the country's deep racial wounds and damaged his acting career and his advocacy for African-Americans and LGBT issues. Left behind are hurt and blame and many questions that will likely go unanswered.

"Black people will see this as a black mark," Georgetown University sociologist Michael Eric Dyson said. "Given what the consequences are, this does not help anybody. It doesn't help the police department. It doesn't help black activism. It doesn't help Mr. Smollett. Everybody loses and nobody wins."

Smollett, who is black and gay, reported to Chicago police that he was attacked around 2 a.m. on Jan. 29 on his way home from a sandwich shop. He said his attackers threw some kind of chemical on him, looped a rope around his neck and beat him up while hurling slurs and yelling "This is MAGA country," a reference to President Donald Trump's campaign slogan, "Make America Great Again."

The initial reports were frightening for many people, prompting a rush to judgment led in large part by black Americans and fueled by social media, with politicians, entertainers and the general public weighing in.

"Social media allows all of us to be skeptics, and it allows all of us to ask questions and probe in public," said Rashad Robinson, executive director of the online civil rights organization Color of Change. "There's

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, March 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 261 ~ 19 of 31

the incentive to be first, to be loud, to be different in order to drive your visibility. The information that first came out was so visceral and scary for so many.”

Within days, a new narrative emerged. Investigators claimed Smollett made a false report to police because he was unhappy with his pay on the Fox television show and believed the attention would promote his career.

Since the charges were dropped, many of those same voices have been reserved, reluctant to chime in or exhausted by the whiplash developments. Their silence stood in contrast to both outgoing Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson, who blasted Smollett as an opportunist who conjured a hate crime to enrich himself at the expense of the city and actual victims.

“This casts a shadow of whether they’re telling the truth, and he did this all in the name of self-promotion,” Emanuel told reporters at a news conference. “And he used the laws of the hate crime legislation that all of us collectively over years have put on the books to stand up to be the values that embody what we believe in. This is a whitewash of justice.”

It was a surreal moment for some activists still angered over Emanuel’s handling of the 2014 Laquan McDonald case in which a Chicago police officer fatally shot a black teen 16 times and city officials withheld video footage of the killing for months. The shooting and cover-up were on the minds of many in the black community who questioned whether Smollett would be treated fairly by the department.

But Tuesday’s developments left some observers wondering if, in the end, Smollett’s celebrity trumped his race. Prosecutors dismissed all 16 felony counts and expunged his record. In return, authorities said, he agreed to forfeit the \$10,000 he put up to get out of jail, and he completed community service.

“Only black celebrities, and only occasionally, are treated with the same kind of privilege that white people who are anonymous can take for granted,” Dyson said. “Due process would be to let the facts come out. We had a public hearing with little evidence.”

Without a resolution by jury, the case returns to the court of public opinion. Conservatives are already decrying what they perceive as hypocrisy from Black Lives Matter supporters. Fox News host Tucker Carlson addressed the situation in his Tuesday night monologue: Smollett “may claim to fight for marginalized people, but he is not one of them. In fact, he occupies the highest rank of privilege in our society. He is above the law.”

“Increasingly, there seem to be quite a few people like that in this country,” Carlson continued. “You will recognize them because they are the ones always lecturing you about how bigoted and unfair America is. What they don’t understand is that they are proving that point.”

Whack is The Associated Press’ national writer on race and ethnicity. Follow her on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/emaravelous>.

___ Check out the AP’s complete coverage of the Jussie Smollett case.



Actor Jussie Smollett listens as his attorney, Patricia Brown Holmes, speaks to reporters at the Leighton Criminal Courthouse after prosecutors dropped all charges against him, Tuesday morning, March 26, 2019. (Ashlee Rezin/

Chicago Sun-Times via AP)

Thai Election Commission faces criticism in vote count

By CHRIS BLAKE and KAWEEWIT KAEWJINDA Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Thailand's Election Commission held a sudden news conference Thursday to release full preliminary results of the country's recent general election, though some of the data was inconsistent, adding to concerns over the management of the nation's first poll since a military coup.

The commission, appointed by the legislature hand-picked by the junta that took power in 2014, has faced mounting pressure to speed up the count of Sunday's vote and to address concerns about potential irregularities. The U.S., European Union, Australia and others have called for the commission to address such concerns.

Thai social media users have been less diplomatic, making hashtags such as "CheatingElection19" and "ECBusted" trend.

The latest preliminary results, which the commission said were based on a count of all votes, showed that Palang Pracharath, a party allied with the ruling junta, won the most votes. The commission announced earlier that the main anti-junta party, Pheu Thai, had won the most constituency seats. Final official results aren't required until May.

Both parties have said the early results mean they have a mandate to form the next government, setting up a showdown that could last weeks and lead to instability in a country that has seen repeated political unrest over the past 15 years.

After delaying the release of a full preliminary vote count on election night and then again on Monday, the commission has done little to address concerns beyond blaming any issues in the early counting on the media failing to keep up with the raw data.

After Monday's delay, the commission said it would release a full preliminary vote count on Friday. Then on Wednesday, it said the results announced Friday would only be 95 percent of the count. Then on Thursday, without giving advance notice to the media, it went on TV to announce what it said was the full preliminary vote total, though it did not give seat totals.

As election officials began announcing various numbers, observers noted that they failed to match those in handouts the commission issued at the same time. A huge leap in the voter turnout percentage also did not appear to be supported by the absolute numbers that were issued. Other issues were more minor, such as the total vote count on one page not matching that on another.

A 208-page file showing the vote by each constituency, posted by the commission on the internet, was taken down and unavailable less than two hours after it was released.

The election was for 500 seats in the lower house. Of those, 350 seats are set aside for the winner of each constituency, while another 150 so-called party list seats are divided among parties based on a proportion of the overall vote. The commission has yet to release a preliminary result for the party list seats, which is determined using a complicated formula that is meant to handicap larger parties.



Thai woman runs past graffiti at a public park Bangkok, Thailand Thursday, March 28, 2019. As Thais wait for official results of their general election, political parties led by one ousted from power in a military coup say they believe they have won enough seats to form the next government.

(AP Photo/Sakchai Lalit)

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, March 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 261 ~ 21 of 31

While official results are due in May, the commission has said the seat allocation could change as it investigates complaints and lawsuits in some constituencies.

"In the midst of public doubt toward the Election Commission, we are confident that they still have time and opportunities to prove themselves — release all information in detail, by constituency, online, so the people can scrutinize it," said Pannika Wanich, spokeswoman for the anti-junta Future Forward Party, which was in third place in the vote count.

The Asian Network for Free Elections, an established regional group of foreign poll watchers, has expressed concern over the vote, noting that the "tabulation and consolidation of ballots were deeply flawed." It noted that the announcement of some preliminary results on election night that were "wildly inaccurate" damaged the "perceived integrity of the general election."

Still, it has said it has no reason to believe the issues affected overall results.

Pheu Thai, which in the latest results was in second place in the popular vote, and several other parties announced Wednesday that together they believe they won a majority of seats in the lower house and should form the next government.

Even if the coalition does secure more than 250 lower house seats, it may not get to form the government due to the country's new political system.

Since the coup, the junta has used the absolute power it granted itself to rewrite the country's laws, including commissioning a new constitution and creating an electoral system that severely disadvantages parties without links to the military.

Under the new rules, an unelected 250-member Senate appointed by the junta will join the 500 elected members of the lower house in a vote for prime minister, meaning a party without Senate support would have to get the support of 376 house members to ensure its choice becomes prime minister.

The vote for prime minister will likely take place sometime in May, and Palang Pracharath's candidate, current junta leader and Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, will have a considerable advantage.

The Latest: Italian minister praises storming of ship

VALLETTA, Malta (AP) — The Latest on a ship seized by migrants in the Mediterranean (all times local): 12:15 p.m.

Italy's interior minister has praised Maltese armed forces for intercepting a ship that had been hijacked by migrants to avoid being returned to Libya.

Matteo Salvini on Thursday said that "immigration is managed by criminals and should be blocked by any legal means necessary."

Salvini had called the incident "the first act of piracy on the high seas with migrants," adding they would not be allowed to land in Italy even as the tanker head north toward Malta and Italy.

Humanitarian groups cautioned against the characterization, saying the migrants were acting in self-defense to avoid being returned to lawless Libya.

Maltese armed forces returned control of the tanker to the captain who then sailed to Malta under military escort. Four migrants were taken off the tanker in handcuffs.

10:05 a.m.

Four migrants have been handcuffed and escorted off an oil tanker that was hijacked at sea, after Maltese special forces restored control of the captain.

The El Hiblu 1 arrived in Malta Thursday morning under armed forces escort with more than 100 migrants on board. Images showed armed military on the deck as migrants milled about nearby. Several police vans were parked on shore waiting to take the migrants into custody. Four men who were led off in handcuffs were believed to be suspects in commandeering the vessel.

The rescued migrants were resisting being returned to Libya, where humanitarian groups say they face abuse and even torture. Italy's interior minister called it an act of piracy. But the humanitarian group Sea Watch disputed that term, saying the actions "were in self-defense against the deadly consequences forced

upon them by Europe's inhumane border policy."

8:45 a.m.

A tanker that had been hijacked by migrants it had rescued at sea has arrived in a Maltese port after armed forces restored control to the captain.

Several military personnel with weapons could be seen on board the Turkish oil tanker El Hiblu 1 when it arrived at port in the capital, Valletta, Thursday morning. Armed forces said that the migrants would be turned over to police for investigation.

A Maltese special operations team had earlier boarded the ship, returning control to the captain, who sailed to Malta under military escort.

Authorities in Italy and Malta said that the migrants had hijacked the ship on Wednesday after it rescued them in the Mediterranean Sea, and forced the crew to put the Libya-bound vessel on a course north toward Europe.

7:35 a.m.

Malta armed forces say a special operations team has seized a tanker that was hijacked by migrants and it is now heading to a Maltese port with the migrants and crew.

Malta armed forces said Thursday that control of the vessel was returned to the captain and it was being escorted and monitored to Malta, where the migrants will be handed over to police for investigation.

Authorities in Malta and Italy said the migrants had hijacked the cargo ship after it rescued them in the Mediterranean Sea and forced the crew to put the Libya-bound vessel on a course north toward Europe. The tanker had rescued about 120 people before it was taken over in what Italy's interior minister described as "the first piracy on the high seas with migrants."



Armed forces stand onboard the Turkish oil tanker El Hiblu 1, which was hijacked by migrants, in Valletta, Malta, Thursday March 28, 2019. A Maltese special operations team on Thursday boarded a tanker that had been hijacked by migrants rescued at sea, and returned control to the captain, before escorting it to a Maltese port. (AP Photo/Rene'

Rossignaud)

UK leader Theresa May makes final push on EU divorce deal

By DANICA KIRKA and JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Theresa May was making a final push Thursday to save her European Union withdrawal deal after her promise to step down gained the agreement some support but failed to win over lawmakers from Northern Ireland.

May pledged Wednesday night that she would quit if the deal were approved, in hopes of blunting opposition from lawmakers in her Conservative Party who have criticized her leadership. May has been under mounting pressure to quit from pro-Brexit Conservatives, who accuse her of negotiating a bad divorce deal that leaves Britain too closely tied to the bloc after it leaves.

Some prominent opponents, including former Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, quickly said they would back the agreement, but Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party said it remained opposed because of concern that the deal treats the region differently from other parts of the U.K.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, March 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 261 ~ 23 of 31

The prime minister's announcement came as lawmakers rejected eight alternatives to her deal after an unprecedented move to wrest control of the parliamentary agenda from the government in an attempt to find a plan that could break the Brexit deadlock.

A second round of votes is planned on Monday to try to find a plan with majority backing. But the architect of the votes said the inconclusive outcome meant a damaging no-deal Brexit was becoming more likely.

"At the moment we are heading for a situation where, under the law, we leave without a deal on the 12th, which many of us think is not a good solution," Conservative Party lawmaker Oliver Letwin told the BBC. "And the question is, is Parliament on Monday willing to come to any view in the majority about that way forward that doesn't involve that result?"

The EU last week extended the Brexit deadline for two weeks, saying Britain would leave the bloc with no deal on April 12 if it doesn't come up with a plan to break the deadlock by that date. If Parliament approves May's deal by Friday, the deadline will be extended until May 22 so there is time to pass implementing legislation.

Brexit Secretary Stephen Barclay said the outcome of the indicative votes showed "there are no easy options here," as he urged lawmakers to support May's deal.

The results of Wednesday's "indicative votes" underscored the divisions in Parliament, and the country, over Brexit — but also pointed toward a potential compromise.

The idea of remaining in a customs union with the EU came closest to winning a majority, with 264 lawmakers voting for it and 272 voting against. The most popular option was the idea of holding a second referendum on any deal approved by Parliament, which was backed by 268 lawmakers, but opposed by 295.

Both ideas got more support than the 242 votes secured by May's deal earlier this month.

The plan is for the most popular ideas to move to a second vote Monday to find an option that can command a majority. Parliament would then instruct the government to negotiate it with the EU.

May has said she will consider the outcome of the votes, although she has refused to be bound by the result.

Business groups expressed alarm at the continuing gridlock, which has left companies uncertain whether they will face tariffs, customs checks and other barriers to trade with the EU in just a couple of weeks.

"No one would run a business like this - and it is no way to run a country," said Adam Marshall, director-general of the British Chambers of Commerce.

He told politicians to stop "chasing rainbows" and "start making tough decisions, however personally or politically difficult they might be."

Labour Party legislator Margaret Beckett, who sponsored the second referendum proposal, said lawmak-



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May stands to talk to lawmakers inside the House of Commons parliament in London Wednesday March 27, 2019. As Lawmakers sought Wednesday for an alternative to May's unpopular Brexit deal with Europe, with a series of 'indicative votes', May offered to resign from office if her deal is passed by lawmakers at some point and Britain left the European Union.

(Jessica Taylor/House of Commons via AP)

ers who had been “wedded to particular proposals” now needed to compromise in the national interest. “They are going to have to look over the abyss,” she said.

Follow AP’s full coverage of Brexit at: <https://www.apnews.com/Brexit>

10 Things to Know for Today By The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. HIJACKED TANKER ARRIVES SAFELY IN MALTA

A Maltese special operations team boards a vessel that had been hijacked by migrants rescued at sea, and returns control to the captain, before escorting it to a Maltese port.

2. SPECULATION RISES OVER TRUMP PARDONS

The president’s closest advisers and GOP allies say such a move could ignite a political firestorm if he pardons those charged in the Russia probe.

3. ‘IT DOESN’T OPEN’

Survivors of the mosque attacks in New Zealand describe to the AP confusion and terror at a door they couldn’t open on one side of the main prayer room in the Al Noor mosque.

4. MUELLER’S EVIDENCE LIKELY A MASSIVE AMOUNT OF MATERIAL

Democratic lawmakers say what they really want is documentation of everything — and an idea of how that evidence guided the special counsel’s conclusions.

5. THE FALLOUT FROM THE JUSSIE SMOLLETT CASE

The “Empire” actor’s bizarre saga has shaken the public trust, exposed the country’s deep racial wounds and damaged his acting career and advocacy for African-Americans and LGBT issues.

6. WHERE WINNING POWERBALL TICKET WAS SOLD

A single ticket sold in Wisconsin matches all six numbers in the drawing to win the third-largest jackpot in U.S. lottery history.

7. AID FINALLY REACHES ZIMBABWE VILLAGE

Cyclone-devastated Machongwe pauses from retrieving and burying their dead to welcome the first humanitarian aid from the outside world nearly two weeks after the storm.

8. WHAT CREATES QUANDARY FOR POLICE

Federal legalization for hemp as authorities lack the technology to distinguish marijuana from agricultural hemp at a roadside stop, AP learns.

9. OFFICE BUILDING CATCHES FIRE IN BANGLADESH CAPITAL



A migrant, suspected to be involved in the hijack of the Turkish oil tanker El Hiblu 1, is taken into custody in Valletta, Malta, Thursday March 28, 2019. A Maltese special operations team on Thursday boarded a tanker that had been hijacked by migrants rescued at sea, and returned control to the captain, before escorting it to a Maltese port. (AP Photo/Rene’ Rossignaud)

A fire breaks out in a high-rise in Dhaka and some people are feared trapped inside while some reports say several people fell from the building trying to escape.

10. ONLY CINDERELLA LEFT IN THIS DANCE

The closest thing to a long shot left in the NCAA Tournament is No. 12 seed Oregon and the Ducks will face top-seeded Virginia.

Winning \$768M Powerball ticket sold in Wisconsin

By The Associated Press undefined

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — A single ticket sold in Wisconsin matched all six numbers in the Wednesday night Powerball drawing to win the third-largest jackpot in U.S. lottery history. Due to strong ticket sales, the jackpot climbed to an estimated \$768.4 million at the time of the drawing with a cash option of \$477 million.

Powerball said the winning numbers are 16, 20, 37, 44, 62 and the Powerball number is 12.

The \$768.4 million is the third-largest behind the world record \$1.586 billion Powerball jackpot shared by winners in California, Florida and Tennessee in January 2016, and the \$1.537 billion Mega Millions jackpot won in South Carolina last October.

"It's going to be a very green spring for our first Powerball jackpot winner of 2019," David Barden, Powerball Product Group chairman and New Mexico Lottery CEO, said in a statement. "A jackpot of this size can make many dreams come true - not just for the winner, but for all Lottery beneficiaries and the lucky state of Wisconsin."

Although the prize grew steadily since the previous jackpot winner on Dec. 26, the odds of matching the five white balls and single Powerball remained one in 292.2 million.

The \$768.4 million estimated figure refers to the annuity option, paid over 29 years. Nearly all grand prize winners opt for the cash prize, which for Wednesday's drawing would be an estimated \$477 million. Both prize options are before taxes.

Seven tickets matched all five white balls, but missed matching the red Powerball in Wednesday's drawing to win a \$1 million prize. Those tickets were sold in Arizona, two in California, Indiana, Missouri, New Jersey and New York. Two other tickets, sold in Kansas and Minnesota, matched all five white balls and doubled the prize to \$2 million, because the tickets included the Power Play option for an additional \$1.

Powerball is played in 44 states, plus Washington, D.C., the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.



People wait in line for lottery tickets at the Lotto Store at Primm just inside the California border Wednesday, March 27, 2019, near Primm, Nev. The Powerball jackpot soared to a massive \$750 million Wednesday. (AP Photo/John Locher)

Trump's return to west Michigan comes amid Democratic gains

By SARA BURNETT and DAVID EGGERT Associated Press

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP) — The 50 or so party faithful gathered at a western Michigan GOP headquarters prayed for President Donald Trump's re-election and hummed with excitement about his upcoming visit — a meeting-turned-pep rally for the effort they'll mount on his behalf in 2020.

"Are we ready?" former Michigan Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land asked the group assembled in Grand Rapids on Monday night.

"Yeah!" the crowd cried back.

The area around former President Gerald Ford's hometown has been very good to Trump, helping deliver him to the White House in 2016 with a victory in a blue state he wasn't supposed to win. But as he returns to Grand Rapids on Thursday night for a rally that will celebrate the completion of special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation, there is cause for worry.

The Democratic-leaning city and the historically Republican turf surrounding it in Kent County have seen a rise of Democratic activism and electoral success since Trump took office. Democrats also are benefiting

from demographic changes, as the area has grown younger and more diverse, and there are signs the improving economy also could be helping them.

Last fall, Democrat Gretchen Whitmer won the governor's race over a Trump-endorsed candidate with help from voters in Kent County. She was the first Democratic gubernatorial nominee to take the county since an incumbent won it in 1986. Democrats also picked up a longtime GOP-held state Senate seat and made gains on the county board.

Local Democratic leaders also point to a flurry of new organizations that popped up to oppose Trump and promote progressive causes, from women's marches to environmental concerns.

"I haven't been to this many marches since the 1960s," said Frank Lynn, former chairman of the Kent County Democratic Party.

His successor agreed — and said the new wave of activism also has provided "an army of motivated volunteers."

"I think there will be an even higher level of motivation in 2020," Chairman Gary Stark said.

But for all the enthusiasm among Democrats, Trump's supporters could be newly energized by the Mueller investigation ending with no evidence of collusion with Russia.

"Democrats are in a pickle and they put themselves here" by trumpeting the investigation, said Brian "Boomer" Patrick, communications director for Republican U.S. Rep Bill Huizenga. "All the eggs were in



FILE - In this Nov. 8, 2016 file photo, supporters hold signs for Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump during a rally, in Grand Rapids, Mich. The area around Grand Rapids has been very good to President Donald Trump, helping deliver him to the White House in 2016 with a victory in a blue state he wasn't supposed to win. But as Trump returns to Grand Rapids for a rally Thursday night, March 28, 2019, there is cause for Republicans to worry. (AP Photo/Paul Sancya, File)

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, March 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 261 ~ 27 of 31

one basket on the Mueller report.”

Trump campaign officials acknowledge that they face a battle holding the states Trump swung away from Democrats in 2016, including Michigan and Wisconsin, and that Trump’s likeliest path to victory in 2020 almost requires them to do it.

Still, they insist that the lesson of the 2018 midterms is that Trump’s core supporters are still enthusiastic about him — as evidenced by several victories in races in which the president invested his time. And in 2020, Trump himself will be atop the ballot and actively campaigning.

“There’s nobody that excites and unites voters like President Trump. He brings in new voters that would never be involved in politics,” Republican National Committee spokesman Rick Gorka said. “When you have that bully pulpit, and Air Force One lands in your state, it moves people and it moves numbers.”

The Trump campaign is hiring 10 regional political directors for swing states in the coming weeks. The RNC field operation in Michigan has been continuous since before the 2016 election cycle.

Meanwhile, RNC officials say, Democrats must struggle through a fractious primary with more than a dozen candidates fighting for the nomination.

Republicans will focus on what they call Trump’s biggest successes, including low unemployment, tax cuts and putting the Islamic State group “on the run.”

The party already has been painting the Democratic field as “very extreme,” criticizing their support for proposals such as “Medicare For All” and the Green New Deal, which they say would destroy Michigan’s manufacturing and agricultural sectors.

“Whoever emerges, I think there will be very stark differences in policies and beliefs,” said Michigan GOP Chairwoman Laura Cox.

Democrats are also planning their offensive. Parties in Michigan, Wisconsin and five other battleground states are joining with the Democratic National Committee to train organizers, particularly young people of color, to organize on college campuses and in their communities. Organizing Corps 2020 hopes to have 1,000 trained organizers by this summer.

The Democratic group Priorities USA also plans to spend at least \$100 million in battleground states, including Michigan, Wisconsin and Florida.

Two 2020 candidates, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York and former U.S. Rep. Beto O’Rourke of Texas, campaigned in Michigan this month, and Sens. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota and Kamala Harris of California have stops scheduled in coming weeks.

Kent Boersema, a 31-year-old security officer and member of the Kent County GOP’s executive committee, said he thinks the president will do even better in the area in 2020, as people who supported GOP rivals Ted Cruz or John Kasich in 2016 get behind him this time.

“I got friends that I know — didn’t vote for Trump in 2016, but they’re voting for him now in 2020. He’s going to have a more solid, cohesive Republican Party behind him,” he said.

Still, he said, Kent County has become more of a swing area politically than the GOP stronghold it once was.

“We’ve got our work cut out for us,” he said.

Burnett reported from Chicago. Associated Press reporter Zeke Miller contributed from Washington.

Facebook extends ban on hate speech to ‘white nationalists’

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY AP Technology Writer**

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Facebook is extending its ban on hate speech to prohibit the promotion and support of white nationalism and white separatism.

The company previously allowed such material even though it has long banned white supremacists. The social network said Wednesday that it didn’t apply the ban previously to expressions of white nationalism because it linked such expressions with broader concepts of nationalism and separatism — such as American pride or Basque separatism (which are still allowed).

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, March 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 261 ~ 28 of 31

But civil rights groups and academics called this view "misguided" and have long pressured the company to change its stance. Facebook said it concluded after months of "conversations" with them that white nationalism and separatism cannot be meaningfully separated from white supremacy and organized hate groups.

Critics have "raised these issues to the highest levels at Facebook (and held) a number of working meetings with their staff as we've tried to get them to the right place," said Kristen Clarke, president and executive director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, a Washington, D.C.-based legal advocacy group.

"This is long overdue as the country continues to deal with the grip of hate and the increase in violent white supremacy," she said. "We need the tech sector to do its part to combat these efforts."

Though Facebook Inc. said it has been working on the change for three months, it comes less than two weeks after Facebook received widespread criticism after the suspect in shootings at two New Zealand mosques that killed 50 people was able to broadcast the massacre on live video on Facebook. Also on Wednesday, a man convicted on state murder charges in a deadly car attack at a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, pleaded guilty to federal hate crime charges. The bloodshed in 2017 prompted tech companies to take a firmer stand against accounts used to promote hate and violence.

But apparently not enough. Now, Facebook is trying to do more. As part of Wednesday's change, people who search for terms associated with white supremacy on Facebook will be directed to a group called Life After Hate, which was founded by former extremists who want to help people leave the violent far-right.

Clarke called the idea that white supremacy is different than white nationalism or white separatism a misguided "distinction without a difference."

She said the New Zealand attack was a "powerful reminder about why we need the tech sector to do more to stamp out the conduct and activity of violent white supremacists."

Rashad Robinson, the president of Color of Change, says the racial justice group warned Facebook to the growing dangers of white nationalists on its platform years ago and that he was glad to see Wednesday's announcement.

"Facebook's update should move Twitter, YouTube, and Amazon to act urgently to stem the growth of white nationalist ideologies, which find space on platforms to spread the violent ideas and rhetoric that inspired the tragic attacks witnessed in Charlottesville, Pittsburgh, and now Christchurch," he said.

Twitter does not currently ban white nationalists or white separatists, though its hateful conduct policy forbids the promotion of violence or threats against people on the basis of race, gender, religion and other protected categories. It also bans the use of "hateful images or symbols" in profile or header images. YouTube also bans hate speech and says it removes content promoting violence or hatred on the basis of these categories. Amazon has an "offensive products" policy that does not allow the promotion or glorification of hatred, racial violence or sexual or religious intolerance. The three companies did not immediately respond to messages for comment on Wednesday.

Madihha Ahussain, a special counsel for anti-Muslim bigotry at the nonprofit Muslim Advocates, said what's needed now is more information on how Facebook will define white nationalist content — and how it will enforce its new rules.

"Now, the question is: how will Facebook interpret and enforce this new policy to prevent another tragedy like the Christchurch mosque attacks?" she said.

Associated Press Writer Michael Kunzelman in College Park, Maryland, contributed to this story.

Asian shares fall after US stumble, eyeing China trade talk

By YURI KAGEYAMA AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares were mostly lower Thursday, following a slip on Wall Street, as investors watched the continuing trade talks between the U.S. and China.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 lost 1.5 percent in early trading to 21,049.94, while Australia's S&P/

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, March 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 261 ~ 29 of 31

ASX 200 recouped earlier losses to be up 0.3 percent at 6,154.50. South Korea's Kospi fell nearly 0.7 percent to 2,131.67. Hong Kong's Hang Seng was little changed but slightly lower at 28,709.14, while the Shanghai Composite was also down less than 0.1 percent at 3,021.62.

Technology and health care companies drove a broad slide in U.S. stocks Wednesday, erasing some of the market's solid gains from a day earlier. The sell-off put the Dow Jones Industrial Average on track to end the month with a loss and marked the second drop for the benchmark S&P 500 index this week.

The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note continued to decline, raising some fears about a possible recession within the coming year.

The S&P 500 dropped 13.09 points, or 0.5 percent, to 2,805.37. The Dow slid 32.14 points, or 0.1 percent, to 25,625.59. The Nasdaq composite lost 48.15 points, or 0.6 percent, to 7,643.38. The Russell 2000 index of smaller company stocks gave up 5.93 points, or 0.4 percent, to 1,522.23.

Investors are still waiting to see how the U.S. and China will resolve their costly trade dispute, with high-level talks between Washington and Beijing scheduled to resume.

The Trump administration and Chinese officials are about to hold their eighth round of trade talks in Beijing with several tough issues unresolved, including a timetable for lifting tariffs and a way to enforce any agreement.

Many analysts say they expect some limited agreement to be reached in the coming weeks or months. Yet it's unclear how far any accord would go.

ENERGY:

Benchmark U.S. crude fell 22 cents to \$59.19 a barrel. It fell 0.9 percent to settle at \$59.41 a barrel Wednesday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, edged down 20 cents to \$67.04 a barrel.

CURRENCIES:

The dollar inched down to 110.21 yen from 110.29 yen. The euro fell to \$1.1255 from \$1.1275.



A man walks past a bank electronic board showing the Hong Kong share index outside a Hong Kong local bank Thursday, March 28, 2019. Asian shares were mostly lower Thursday, following a slip on Wall Street, as investors watched the continuing trade talks between the U.S. and China. (AP Photo/Vincent Yu)

AP Business Writer Alex Vega contributed to this report.

Yuri Kageyama is on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/yurikageyama>

On Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/yurikageyama/?hl=en>

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Thursday, March 28, the 87th day of 2019. There are 278 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, March 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 261 ~ 30 of 31

On March 28, 1979, America's worst commercial nuclear accident occurred with a partial meltdown inside the Unit 2 reactor at the Three Mile Island plant near Middletown, Pennsylvania.

On this date:

In 1797, Nathaniel Briggs of New Hampshire received a patent for a washing machine.

In 1898, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *United States v. Wong Kim Ark*, ruled 6-2 that Wong, who was born in the United States to Chinese immigrants, was an American citizen.

In 1930, the names of the Turkish cities of Constantinople and Angora were changed to Istanbul and Ankara.

In 1941, novelist and critic Virginia Woolf, 59, drowned herself near her home in Lewes, East Sussex, England.

In 1942, during World War II, British naval forces staged a successful raid on the Nazi-occupied French port of St. Nazaire in Operation Chariot, destroying the only dry dock on the Atlantic coast capable of repairing the German battleship *Tirpitz*.

In 1969, the 34th president of the United States, Dwight D. Eisenhower, died in Washington D.C. at age 78.

In 1978, in *Stump v. Sparkman*, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld, 5-3, the judicial immunity of an Indiana judge against a lawsuit brought by a young woman who'd been ordered sterilized by the judge when she was a teenager.

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush presented the Congressional Gold Medal to the widow of U.S. Olympic legend Jesse Owens.

In 1999, NATO broadened its attacks on Yugoslavia to target Serb military forces in Kosovo in the fifth straight night of airstrikes; thousands of refugees flooded into Albania and Macedonia from Kosovo.

In 2003, American-led forces in Iraq dropped thousand-pound bombs on Republican Guard units guarding the gates to Baghdad and battled for control of the strategic city of Nasiriyah (nah-sih-REE'-uh). President George W. Bush warned of "further sacrifice" ahead in the face of unexpectedly fierce fighting.

In 2005, The Colorado Supreme Court threw out the death penalty in a rape-and-murder case because five of the trial jurors had consulted the Bible and quoted Scripture during deliberations. (The U.S. Supreme Court refused to consider reinstating the death sentence of Robert Harlan, who ended up being resentenced to life in prison for the murder of cocktail waitress Rhonda Maloney.)

In 2017, Wells Fargo said it would pay \$110 million to settle a class-action lawsuit over as many as 2 million accounts its employees opened for customers without getting their permission.

Ten years ago: Fears in Fargo, N.D., of a catastrophic flood eased with word that the surging Red River had crested at lower-than-expected levels. Nearly 4,000 cities and towns in 88 countries switched off nonessential lights for Earth Hour to highlight the threat of climate change. Thousands of people marched through European cities to demand jobs, economic justice and environmental accountability. Shuttle *Discovery* and its crew of seven returned to Earth, ending a 13-day voyage to install a pair of solar wings on the international space station. Film composer Maurice Jarre, 84, died in Malibu, Calif.

Five years ago: Russian President Vladimir Putin called President Barack Obama to discuss a solution to the crisis in Ukraine; the leaders agreed that top U.S. and Russian diplomats should work on the details. Yuzuru Hanyu of Japan became the first man in 12 years to win the Olympic and world figure skating titles in the same year. Jeremiah Denton, 89, a former U.S. senator who'd survived 7 1/2 years as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam, died in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Ray Rice married Janay Palmer a day after the Baltimore Ravens running back was indicted for aggravated assault for punching his fiancée in an Atlantic City, New Jersey, casino elevator. (Charges against Rice were dropped when he agreed to enter an intervention program.)

One year ago: President Donald Trump fired Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin and nominated White House doctor Ronny Jackson to replace him; the move came in the wake of an ethics scandal and a rebellion within the agency. (Jackson withdrew his nomination amid allegations of workplace misconduct.) A judge in New York ordered rapper DMX to prison for a year for tax evasion. The government reported that the U.S. economy had grown at a solid 2.9 percent annual rate in the final three months of 2017, a sharp upward revision.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, March 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 261 ~ 31 of 31

Today's Birthdays: Author Mario Vargas Llosa is 83. Country musician Charlie McCoy is 78. Movie director Mike Newell is 77. Actress Conchata Ferrell is 76. Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte is 74. Actress Dianne Wiest (weest) is 73. Country singer Reba McEntire is 64. Olympic gold medal gymnast Bart Conner is 61. Actress Alexandra Billings (TV: "Transparent") is 57. Rapper Salt (Salt-N-Pepa) is 53. Actress Tracey Needham is 52. Actor Max Perlich is 51. Movie director Brett Ratner is 50. Country singer Rodney Atkins is 50. Actor Vince Vaughn is 49. Rapper Mr. Cheeks (Lost Boyz) is 48. Actor Ken L. is 46. Singer-songwriter Matt Nathanson is 46. Rock musician Dave Keuning is 43. Actress Annie Wersching is 42. Actress Julia Stiles is 38. Singer Lady Gaga is 33. Electronic musician Clayton Knight (Odesza) is 31.

Thought for Today: "Those who say they give the public what it wants begin by underestimating public taste and end by debauching it." — T.S. Eliot, American-Anglo poet and critic (1888-1965).